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SOURCE Gesetzblatt der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, No 42, 1950.

IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS OF 13 APRIL 1950 FOR THE GDR DECREE ON THE ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS

On the basis of Article 8 of the Decree of 12 January 1950 pertaining to the issuance of diplomatic passports and official passports, the following is ordered:

Article 1

1. The Chancery of the GDR (German Democratic Republic) or the competent GDR ministry shall request from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs the blank forms required for the issuance of diplomatic or official passports, copies of which are attached hereto as Appendix 1) [not included in original].

2. Notations regarding the validity of diplomatic or official passports shall constitute supplements, in accordance with Article 1 of the decree.

Article 2

1. For travel abroad, the President of the Republic, the President of the People's Chamber, and the members of the GDR government shall be issued diplomatic passports by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall issue diplomatic passports to representatives of the German Democratic Republic enjoying diplomatic privileges and immunity, following the renewal of their appointments.

2. If a diplomatic passport is to be granted to [a diplomat's] family members, pursuant to Article 2, Subsection 2 of the decree, the required forms (Appendix 1), properly filled out in duplicate, shall be submitted to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and said ministry shall obtain from the Ministry of Interior written approval to issue such passports.

3. The same rules shall apply for the issuance of diplomatic passports of heads of delegations or their deputies who are entitled to receive such passports pursuant to Article 2, Subsection 3 of the decree.

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4. Diplomatic couriers who have been confirmed by the Ministry of Interior shall be granted diplomatic passports for official travels.

Article 3

1. Whenever an official passport is to be issued to a state secretary of the GDR or to members of the GDR Laender governments, the incumbents will submit forms, executed in duplicate, to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

2. Whenever official passports are to be issued to employees of offices under the Minister President, the head of the government Chancery shall submit a completed form (Appendix 1) in duplicate to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs via the Ministry of Interior. Whenever an employee of any of the ministries applies for an official passport, the minister or state secretary of the ministry concerned shall submit such forms, following the above-described procedure. Like regulations shall apply to the issuance of official passports according to Article 3, Section b of said decree.

3. If an official passport is to be issued to an employee of one of the GDR Laender governments, the competent Ministry of such Land shall submit the completed forms (Appendix 1) in duplicate to the corresponding ministry on the federal level. On approval by the minister or state secretary of such ministry, the completed forms shall be submitted in duplicate to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs via the Ministry of Interior.

4. If an official passport is to be issued to an employee or member of an official agency or organization of one of the GDR Laender, pursuant to Article 3, Subsection a of said decree, the head of such official agency or organization shall submit the completed forms in duplicate to the minister of the Land government in question. In all other instances, the provisions of Article 3, Section 3, shall apply.

5. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall inform the GDR Chancery or the appropriate minister or state secretary concerning its decision.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall issue the official passport (Dienstpass) to the person whose name it bears, at which time the latter's German identity card (Personalausweis) will become part of his dossier.

At the end of the journey, the official passport shall be returned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in exchange for the German identity card, and said passport shall be stamped "invalid."

6. The head of the pertinent diplomatic mission of the GDR shall be competent to grant extensions of official passports held by employees or members of official agencies or organizations serving in an official capacity in countries outside the GDR. Failing the existence of an appropriate diplomatic mission, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall grant extensions of official passports, and the necessary data therefore shall be submitted to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

7. The head of a diplomatic mission of the GDR shall be authorized to issue and deliver official passports by direction or or subject to confirmation by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

8. As a principle of basic policy, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall issue and deliver official passports only with the written approval of the Ministry of Interior. Written approval of the Ministry of Interior is likewise necessary for issuing directives or confirmations as specified in paragraph 7 above.

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Article 4

1. On page 2 of the diplomatic passport, under the heading "travels abroad accompanied by," entry may be made of the name of the spouse and children, if any, up to 15 years of age, who are to enjoy the diplomatic privileges and immunities of the holder of the passport and who are not themselves holders of diplomatic passports. Photographs of such persons shall be attached to page 6.

2. Changes in family status which occurred outside the GDR shall be entered on the passport by an official of the responsible diplomatic mission.

Article 5

1. Border-crossing permits and registers of couriers shall be issued as illustrated by Appendices 1 and 2 not included in original.

2. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Berlin, with the approval of the Ministry of Interior, shall issue border-crossing permits for holders of GDR diplomatic passports, as well as for holders of foreign diplomatic passports.

Heads of GDR diplomatic missions may be authorized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to issue border-crossing permits outside the boundaries of the GDR, subject to approval by the Ministry of Interior.

3. Courier registers shall be issued in Berlin by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and abroad by the heads of the GDR diplomatic mission.

Article 6

1. Holders of German or foreign diplomatic passports or of official passports shall be permitted to enter or leave the GDR only provided said passports bear the proper visa of the GDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs or of a GDR diplomatic mission. (See Appendix 4 for prescribed visa blank forms) not included in original.

2. No fees shall be charged for diplomatic or official passports, or for the necessary visas.

Article 7

1. All diplomatic and official passports shall carry notations indicating the expiration of their terms of validity.

2. Passports which fail to bear such notation shall be deemed invalid.

Article 8

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs shall recall all diplomatic passports the holders of which cease to be entitled to the privileges thereunder.

Berlin, 13 April 1950
Dertinger, Minister
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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